

WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH CUMMINGS DAVIS

William Davis was born October 12, 1867, in Heber. His parents were William Davis and Mary Goddard Colind,

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HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS



Elizabeth Cummings was born January 7, 1870, in Heber. Her parents were Isaac Cummings and Sarah Jones. She was the sixth child in a family of 12 children.

Although Will had lived at the ranch, just eight miles north of Heber, he and Lizzie had never met till they went to Provo to attend the B. Y. U. in 1886. She, with her two brothers, Ike and John, and others from Heber, boarded in a hotel while they attended school. She and Will fell in love and before the winter was over, Lizzie broke her engagement to another fellow and decided to marry Will.

Early on the morning of October 17, 1888, they, with two other couples, Ike Cummings and Minnie Averett, Attewall Wootton and Elizabeth Ohwiler, climbed into a wagon and drove to Park City. There they boarded the train for Logan, Utah. The next morning, October 18, 1888, they were married in the temple. A large wedding reception was held for the Davises at her parents' home.

After a three months' stay in Heber, the couple moved to the ranch at Elkhorn, where they spent the rest of their married life, except for five years in Park City and a period between 1898 and 1905, when they lived in Heber following the death of Sarah Cummings, taking care of Lizzie's father and his children until his death. It was at the ranch that their six children were born. Two of them died in infancy.

Of the four remaining, Zella married George Blackley and is the only survivor at the present time. Mae died at the age of 18, in 1909. Wallace married Lila Jones. He died of tuberculosis in 1931. Nellie married Arnold Johnson. She died from a stroke in 1952.

"The Ranch," as it was known to almost everyone, was a 660-acre place that Will

and Lizzie Davis made a hospitable home for friends and strangers. They were always willing to give a helping hand and many times during or after storms, Will arose in the middle of the night, harnessed his big, white horses and helped pull cars out of the mud. Mention of remuneration was an insult to him.

The mailmen who had the rural route were especially grateful to him. There were countless times he helped them out of the mud and even took them on to Park City when their cars were stalled—delivering the mail with them along the way.

"Aunt Liz" was a friend to everyone and no matter who it was stopped at her door, she insisted on feeding them, even if it were only a piece of pie. She was a marvelous cook and many a salesman or passerby would make an excuse to use the phone or stop for a drink of water, just to get some of her good cooking.

It took much work to run the ranch. Will and Lizzie worked side by side. For years Will worked at the "Tunnel" to supplement his income, and Lizzie helped out with the chores. She would milk the 14 cows, feed the pigs and chickens, separate the milk, and many other jobs that a farmer's wife has to perform. No matter what time of the night Will came home, there was always a hearty meal ready for him.

The schoolhouse at Elkhorn stood where Sweeney's Pole Plant was situated and during the school season the school teacher always boarded with the Davises.

L. D. S. meetings were held in the schoolhouse, and Will and Lizzie took part in running the Elkhorn branch. Lizzie was M.I.A. president at one time.

Will Davis died May 15, 1939, of cancer. Lizzie stayed on at the ranch for two more years and then sold it to the New Park Mining Co. She then came to Heber, locating in a new home at 27 East Third North Street.

There she lived until her death, January 26, 1959, at the age of 89 years.

